



New England Agricultural Statistics

A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA To MEASURE OAT AND BARLEY CROPS IN MAINE

What is the situation with the oat and barley crops in Maine? To answer that question the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the annual September Agricultural Survey. This survey is part of a national program to establish official statistics for small grain acreage and production.

In Maine, the survey will measure acreage, production, and stocks on hand for oats and barley. Approximately 250 Maine growers will be asked for their help as part of this nationwide effort. Sample questions and a letter requesting assistance with this project will be mailed to the producers selected to participate. Enumerators will conduct the survey through personal or telephone interviews between September 1 and September 13, 2006.

"Being a nationwide project and considering the small sample size, it is important that Maine farmers participate in the September Agricultural Survey so that the state is clearly represented in this snapshot of American agriculture," states Gary Keough, Director of New England Agricultural Statistics. He also notes, "The results of the survey are needed by grower associations, lenders and lawmakers to have the facts about agriculture when reviewing farm policies, an important factor in decision making." He emphasized that like all surveys conducted by NASS, individual information is kept strictly confidential and is even exempted from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination to establish state and national estimates.

The national survey results will be available in **Small Grains Summary** from Washington, D.C. on September 29, 2006 at 8:30 am. All reports are available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov within minutes of the scheduled release time. New England and United States statistics are reprinted in the monthly issue of the **Agricultural Review**. The monthly **Agricultural Review** is available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh/ and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[New England Agricultural Statistics is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.]

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